

olivaceo marginatis; gutture pectoreque cinerascanti-olivaceis, singulis in medio plumis obscurioribus; abdomine, lateribus crissoque cinereis stramineo tinctis.

Long. tot. $5\frac{1}{2}$ unc.; *ala*, $3\frac{3}{4}$; *cauda*, 2; *tarsi*, $1\frac{1}{8}$; *rostri*, $\frac{1}{2}$; alt. *rostri*, $\frac{1}{2}$.

Upper part of the body deep brown, with each feather margined with cinereous olive; the throat and breast cinereous olive, with the middle of each feather darker; the abdomen, sides, and under tail coverts cinereous tinged with straw colour.

Habitat, Galapagos Archipelago, (Charles Island?)

I am nearly certain that this species is not found in James Island. I believe it came from Charles Island, and probably there replaces the *C. psittaculus* of James Island. I obtained three specimens, one male, and two females; from the analogy of so many species in this group, I do not doubt the old male would be black.

SUB-GENUS.—CACTORNIS. Gould.

CACTORNIS differt a genere GEOSPIZA rostro elongato, acuto, compresso, longitudine altitudinem eccellente; mandibula superioris margine vix indentato; naribus basalibus et vix tectis; tarsis brevioribus, unguibus majoribus et plus curvatis.

Cactornis scandens is the typical species.

1. CACTORNIS SCANDENS. Gould.

PLATE XLII.

C. intensè fuliginosa, crisso albo; rostro et pedibus nigrescenti-brunneis.

Long. tot. 5 unc.; *rostri*, $\frac{3}{4}$; *ala*, $2\frac{3}{8}$; *cauda*, $1\frac{1}{2}$; *tarsi*, $\frac{3}{4}$.

Fœm. Corpore superiore, gutture pectoreque intensè brunneis, singulis plumis pallidiorè marginatis; abdomine crissoque cinereis, stramineo tinctis; rostro pallidè fusco; pedibus nigrescenti-fuscis.

Deep sooty black, with the under tail-coverts white; the bill and feet blackish-brown.

Female: Upper surface of the body, throat and breast intensely brown, with the margins of each feather paler; the abdomen and the under tail coverts cinereous, tinged with straw-colour; the bill pale fuscous, and the feet blackish fuscous.

Habitat, Galapagos Archipelago, (James' Island.)

The species of this sub-genus alone can be distinguished in habits from the several foregoing ones belonging to *Geospiza* and *Camarhynchus*. Their most

frequent resort is the *Opuntia Galapageia*, about the fleshy leaves of which they hop and climb, even with their back downwards, whilst feeding with their sharp beaks, both on the fruit and flowers. Often, however, they alight on the ground, and mingled with the flock of the above mentioned species, they search for seeds in the parched volcanic soil. The extreme scarceness of the jet-black specimens, which I mentioned under the head of the genus *Geospiza*, is well exemplified in the case of the *C. scandens*, for although I daily saw many brown-coloured ones, (and two collectors were looking out for them), only one, besides that which is figured, was procured, and I did not see a second.

2. CACTORNIS ASSIMILIS. Gould.

PLATE XLIII.

TISSERIN DES GALLAPAGOS, (Ile St. Charles,) *Nebour*, Revue Zoologique, 1840, p. 291.

C. Mas (jun?) corpore suprà fuliginoso, (guttura abdomineque exceptis,) cinereo marginatis; rostro pallidè rufescenti-brunneo; pedibus nigrescenti-brunneis.

Long. tot. $5\frac{1}{2}$ unc.; *rostri*, $\frac{3}{4}$; *ala*, $2\frac{3}{4}$; *cauda*, $1\frac{3}{4}$; *tarsi*, $\frac{3}{4}$.

Upper surface of the body sooty black, margined with cinereous, as well as the throat and abdomen; the bill pale rufous brown; the feet blackish brown.

Habitat, Galapagos Archipelago.

I do not know from which island of the group this species was procured; almost certainly not from James Island. Analogy would in this case, as in that of *Camarhynchus crassirostris*, lead to the belief that the old male would be jet black. By a mistake this bird has been figured standing on the *Opuntia Darwinii*, a plant from Patagonia, instead of the *O. Galapageia*. I may here mention that a third and well characterized species of *Cactornis* has lately been sent by Captain Belcher, R.N. to the Zoological Society; as Capt. Belcher visited Cocos Island, which is the nearest land to the Galapagos Archipelago, being less than 400 miles distant, it is very probable that the species came thence.

SUB-GENUS.—CERTHIDEA. Gould.

CERTHIDEA differt a genere GEOSPIZA rostro graciliore et acutiore; naribus basalibus et non tectis; mandibula superioris margine recto; tarsis longioribus et gracilioribus.

Of the foregoing sub-genera, *Geospiza*, *Camarhynchus* and *Cactornis* belong to one type, but with regard to *Certhidea*, although Mr. Gould confidently believes it should also be referred to the same division, yet as in its slighter form and weaker bill, it has so much the appearance of a member of the *Sylviade*, he would by no means insist upon the above view being adopted, until the matter shall have been more fully investigated.